

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2152

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2358

ADDIS FOR SECRETARY DAVIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CHARLES DIGGS), SF

SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS-LETTER OF PROTEST TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER

1. WHEN CONGRESSMAN DIGGS PASSED THROUGH HERE EARLY YESTERDAY MORNING (JUNE 24), HE SAID HE HAD WRITTEN A LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER PROTESTING THE DENIAL OF HIS VISA WHICH HE WANTED DELIVERED TO THE PRIME MINISTER. HE SHOWED ME COPY OF LETTER AND ASKED ME TO GIVE ORIGINAL TO APPROPRIATE SAG OFFICIALS. I ASKED HIM WHETHER THIS WAS TO BE A PRIVATE COMMUNICATION OR DID HE PLAN TO RELEASE IT. HE SAID HE WAS PLANNING TO MAKE IT PUBLIC BUT HAD NOT DECIDED WHEN AND HOW. I TOLD HIM THAT THE WRITING OF THE LETTER WAS OF COURSE A MATTER FOR HIM TO DECIDE. MY ADVICE WOULD BE NOT RPT NOT TO, AND CERTAINLY NOT RPT NOT MAKE IT PUBLIC, IF HE WISHED TO OVERCOME SOUTH AFRICAN REFUSALS TO GRANT HIM A VISA. HE RESPONDED THAT NOTHING THAT HE DID OR FAILED TO DO WOULD CHANGE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTITUDES SHORT OF HIS ABANDONING HIS POSITION ON APARTHEID WHICH HE WOULD NOT DO.

2. IN DISCUSSING PROGRAM FOR REPRESENTATIVE COLLINS' VISIT JUNE 26 AND 27, WE INCLUDED COURTESY CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY VAN DALSEN ON JUNE 27 AT 3:30 PM. I NOTED THAT IF HE DECIDED IN THE END TO SEND THE LETTER HE MIGHT WISH TO USE HIS COLLEAGUE FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE SAID HE WOULD THINK ABOUT IT.

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EM CONSUL GENERAL WALKER CALLED THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT DIGGS NOW PLANS TO HAVE LETTER DELIVERED BY CONGRESSWOMAN COLLINS AND HAVE HER RELEASE TEXT HERE DURING PRESS CONFERENCE JUST PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE FOR NAIROBI. DIGGS ALSO TOLD WALKER HE WANTED STAFF MEMBER LESLIE YATES TO ACCOMPANY COLLINS ON HER VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA AND REQUESTED THAT I TRY TO GET A VISA FOR HER. I TOLD WALKER I WOULD MAKE THE REQUEST AND HAVE DONE SO THROUGH MFA BUT AS OF THIS WRITING HAVE RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. WALKER IS REPORTING THIS SEPARATELY WITH TEXT OF DIGGS TO VORSTER LETTER. COMMENT: I THINK LETTER, ALTHOUGH NOT AS STRIDENT AS IT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE, IS ILL-ADVISED. RELEASE OF IT THROUGH CONGRESSWOMAN COLLINS IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL NOT INGRATiate EITHER HIM OR HER TO SAG AUTHORITIES AND WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN HER BEING DENIED ENTRY IN THE FUTURE.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO PREPARATION OF THIS MESSAGE, UNDER SECRETARY VAN DALSEN CALLED TO SAY THAT MRS. YATES COULD ACCOMPANY CONGRESSWOMAN COLLINS IN HER CAPACITY AS A STAFF MEMBER OF THE HIRC AND PROVIDED SHE REMAINS WITH MRS. COLLINS DURING HER STAY. I AM RELAYING THESE CONDITIONS TO CONGEN WALKER TO PASS TO LESLIE YATES.

BOWDLER

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